to vote for the person who, in their opinion, is the best candidate. Government is entitled to this right and they do not propose to give it up. The exercise of this right by Government cannot in any sense be regarded as flouting the opinion of the non-official members of this House, especially as in this case there is no unanimity amongst the non-officials themselves.

In view of the peculiar position occupied by the official members of this House it is desirable, both in the interests of Government and non-officials, that the official block should keep aloof from any party or election manoeuvres. Except on matters where individual conscientious objection may be involved Government would instruct their officials as to the manner in which they have to vote. This is an undisputed right enjoyed by all Governments in every type of legislature and His Highness' Government propose to exercise this right unfettered.

Election of the Deputy President.

Mr. President.—The House will now proceed to the election of the Deputy President. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan now says that he withdraws his candidature. The other candidates are:—

(1) Mr. P. Raman Menon,
(2) Mr. A. Eachara Menon, and
(3) Mr. A. Sankara Menon.

The names of the Hon'ble Members will be called out by the Secretary. They will come to the table here, get a ballot paper, mark the vote and put it into the box.

The Ballot was likewise taken.

Mr. President.—The result of the voting is as follows:—

Mr. Sankara Menon—38 ;
Mr. Eachara Menon—10 ; and
Mr. Raman Menon—3.

Therefore there is no need for a second ballot and I declare Mr. A. Sankara Menon as duly elected as Deputy President.

General Discussion on the Budget.

Mr. President.—The House will now take up the General Discussion on the Budget. Hon'ble Members will please note that the time allowed for an Hon'ble Member is 20 minutes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, I have first of all to withdraw my congratulations to the Government which I offered

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly